

need to go to court, deciding whether it believes unlawful discrimination occurred, and bringing lawsuits when it believes the law has been violated.

Fact #5: A sampling of charges where the H.R.C. believed discrimination occurred:

- an African-American family racially harassed by a neighbor;
- child with leukemia refused admission to ballet school;
- female employee suffered sexual harassment and employer failed to respond;
- bi-racial couple discouraged from attending a dance because the man was African-American;
- deaf driver denied car insurance;
- woman denied an apartment because she came from a battered women's shelter;
- person not hired because of age;
- youth soccer league which excluded girls;
- school failed to take appropriate action to stop racial harassment of a child;
- gay men denied lodging at a B&B;
- landlords and mobile home park owners refused rental to families with minor children.

Fact #6: The H.R.C. helped pass civil rights legislation in Vermont including: the Hate Crimes Act; the 1992 Civil Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation; revisions to the Fair Housing law to comply with federal law; expansion of the Public Accommodations Act to include strong provisions from the federal Americans With Disabilities Act; the Sexual Harassment in the Workplace Act; and the Harassment in Education Act.

Fact #7: The H.R.C. serves as an important civil rights resource for people who need information and referrals. The H.R.C. provides support and education to community organizations focusing on issues affecting people of color, people with disabilities, members of the gay and lesbian community, women's groups, Native Americans, and refugee/immigrant groups.

Fact #8: The members of the Legislative Committee on Civil Rights Enforcement studying the operation of the H.R.C. are:

- Sen. Matt Krauss (R. Washington - Ph: 479-2286)
- Sen. Jeb Spaulding (D. Washington - Ph: 223-7504)
- Sen. Susan Sweetser (R. Chittenden - Ph: 879-4838)
- Rep. Sandra Baird (D. Burlington - Ph: 862-2001)
- Rep. Bill Lippert (D. Hinesburg - Ph: 388-6751)
- Rep. Ed Paquin (D. Fairfax - Ph: 849-6535)

**To Support the Human Rights Commission:
come testify on October 26th,
OR call your legislators.**